

II. Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 4, 8, 11, 12 and 14-19 are pending herein.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 10, 13 and 20-26 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 4, 8, 11, 14 and 15 have been amended.

Claims 12 and 16-19 have been maintained in their original form.

1-3 (canceled)

4. (currently amended) ~~The flotation device of claim 1 comprising:~~ A flotation device for supporting a user in the water, comprising a pair of buoyant front panels; a closure connecting said front panels; a pair of side connecting panels extending from said front panels, respectively, for disposition beneath the arms of the user; a buoyant back panel connected to said side connecting panels; a buoyant bottom connecting panel extending from said front panels to said back panel for disposition between the user's legs and floating the user in the water;

(a) a buoyant head support panel hingedly connected to said back panel for floating disposition beneath a user or wearer's head and supporting the user's head above the water; and

(b) a pair of shoulder straps extending from said front panels and a connecting strap connected to said shoulder straps and said back panel for positioning said shoulder straps over the shoulders of the user.

5-7 (canceled)

8. (currently amended) ~~The flotation device of claim 5 comprising:~~ A flotation device for supporting a user in the water, comprising a pair of buoyant front panels; a

closure connecting said front panels; a pair of side connecting panels extending from said front panels, respectively, for disposition beneath the arms of the user; a buoyant back panel connected to said side connecting panels; a buoyant bottom connecting panel extending from said front panels to said back panel for disposition between the user's legs and floating the user in the water wherein said front panels, said back panel and said bottom connecting panel are constructed of a buoyant expanded foam material and comprising a flexible cover enclosing said buoyant expanded foam material of said front panels, said back panel and said bottom connecting panel;

(a) a buoyant head support panel hingedly connected to said back panel for floating disposition beneath the user's head and supporting the user's head above the water and wherein said head support panel is constructed of an expanded foam material and comprising a flexible cover enclosing said buoyant expanded foam material of said head support panel; and

(b) a pair of shoulder straps extending from said front panels and a connecting strap connected to said shoulder straps and said back panel for positioning said shoulder straps over the shoulders of the user.

9-10 (canceled)

11. (currently amended) ~~The flotation device of claim 10 comprising~~ A flotation device for supporting a user in the water, comprising a pair of buoyant front panels; a closure connecting said front panels; a pair of side connecting panels extending from said front panels, respectively, for disposition beneath the arms of the user; a buoyant back panel connected to said side connecting panels; a buoyant bottom connecting panel extending from said front panels to said back panel for disposition between the user's legs and floating the user in the water;

at least one connecting clip provided on at least one of said front panels and said back panel for clipping said flotation device to a second flotation device;

a buoyant head support panel connected to said back panel for floating disposition beneath the user's head and supporting the user's head above the water; and

a pair of shoulder straps extending from said front panels and a connecting strap connected to said shoulder straps and said back panel for positioning said shoulder straps over the shoulders of the user.

12. (original) The flotation device of claim 11 wherein said front panels and said back panel are constructed of a buoyant expanded foam material and comprising a flexible cover enclosing said buoyant expanded foam material of said front panels, said back panel and said bottom connecting panel.

13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) ~~The flotation device of claim 13 comprising:~~ A flotation device for supporting a user in the water, comprising a pair of buoyant front panels; a closure connecting said front panels; a pair of side connecting panels extending from said front panels, respectively, for disposition beneath the arms of the user; a buoyant back panel connected to said side connecting panels; a buoyant bottom connecting panel extending from said front panels to said back panel for disposition between the user's legs and floating the user in the water;
at least one tether connected to said flotation device for connecting said flotation device to a second flotation device;

(a) a buoyant head support panel hingedly connected to said back panel for floating disposition beneath a user's head and supporting the user's head above the water and wherein said head support panel is constructed of a buoyant expanded foam material and comprising a flexible cover enclosing said buoyant expanded foam material of said head support; and

(b) a pair of shoulder straps extending from said front panels and a connecting strap connected to said shoulder straps and said back panel for positioning said shoulder straps over the shoulders of the user.

15. (currently amended) ~~The flotation device of claim 1~~ A flotation device for supporting a user in the water, comprising a pair of buoyant front panels; a closure connecting said front panels; a pair of side connecting panels extending from said front panels, respectively, for disposition beneath the arms of the user; a buoyant back panel connected to said side connecting panels; a buoyant bottom connecting panel extending from said front panels to said back panel for disposition between the user's legs and floating the user in the water;

wherein one end of said bottom connecting panel is attached to said back panel and comprising a pair of torso clips provided on said front panels, respectively, and a pair of companion bottom connecting panel clips attached to the opposite end of said bottom connecting panel from said one end, for selectively engaging said torso clips, respectively, and removably securing said bottom connecting panel to said front panels, respectively, and said bottom connecting panel between the legs of the user.

16. (original) The flotation device of claim 15 comprising at least one connecting clip provided on each of said front panels for clipping said flotation device to a second flotation device.

17. (original) The flotation device of claim 15 comprising a buoyant head support panel hingedly connected to said back panel for floating disposition below the user's head and supporting the user's head above the water.

18. (original) The flotation device of claim 15 comprising a pair of shoulder straps extending from said front panels and a connecting strap connected to said shoulder

straps and said back panel for positioning said shoulder straps over the shoulders of the user.

19. (original) The flotation device of claim 15 comprising:

(a) at least one connecting clip provided on each of said front panels for clipping said flotation device to a second flotation device;

(b) a buoyant head support panel hingedly connected to said back panel for floating disposition below the user's head and supporting the user's head above the water; and

(c) a pair of shoulder straps extending from said front panels and a connecting strap connected to said shoulder straps and said back panel for positioning said shoulder straps over the shoulders of the user.

20-26 (canceled)